

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /094 W
-----082646 231400Z /45

R 230740Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2234
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4918

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: BLACK JOURNALIST SENTENCED TO JAIL

1. ON AUGUST 21, MAGISTRATE J.L. DE VILLIERS OF THE JOHANNESBURG REGIONAL MAGISTRATE COURT FOUND "POST" JOURNALIST THAMI MAZWAI GUILTY OF MAKING TWO CONFLICTING STATEMENTS AT A PREVIOUS TRIAL AND SENTENCED HIM TO ONE YEAR IN JAIL. MAZWAI HAD PLEADED NOT GUILTY AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ACQUITTED OF THE MAIN CHARGE OF PERJURY AND THE FIRST ALTERNATIVE COUNT OF DEFEATING THE ENDS OF JUSTICE. MAZWAI MADE THE CONFLICTING STATEMENTS AT THE TRIAL OF BLACK JOURNALISTS MS. JUBY MAYET AND PHIL MTIMKULU (SEE STATE 42422) WHO WERE ACQUITTED OF CHARGES OF ILLEGALLY WITHDRAWING FUNDS FROM THE ACCOUNT OF THE UNION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS ON OCTOBER 19, WHEN THE ORGANIZATION WAS BANNED. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, DE VILLIERS SAID MAZWAI DELIBERATELY GAVE FALSE EVIDENCE IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIS FRIENDS. DE VILLIERS GRANTED LEAVE TO APPEAL AND MAZWAI WAS RELEASED ON DOLLARS 430 BAIL.

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2. ZWELAKHE SISULU, PRESIDENT OF THE WRITERS' ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA (WASA), INFORMED EMBOFF ON AUGUST 22 THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MAZWAI AND THE LATTER'S ATTORNEY ABOUT THE CASE. ACCORDING TO SISULU, ALL CONCERNED PARTIES, INCLUDING THE STATE PROSECUTOR WERE SURPRISED AT MAZWAI'S SEVERE SENTENCE. SISULU LIKENED MAZWAI'S SENTENCE TO THE

PLIGHT OF SOME SOVIET DISSIDENTS AND QUERIED WHY THE WEST
APPEARS INDIFFERENT TO THE FATE OF BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALISTS.
EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JOURNALISTS, COURT DECISIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR04918
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780344-1080
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780833/aaaabayf.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 45c5305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1647798
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BLACK JOURNALIST SENTENCED TO JAIL
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF, (DE VILLIERS, J L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/45c5305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014